

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the above amended application are respectfully requested. Claims 1 and 17 are amended in part to overcome the rejections under 35 USC 112, second paragraph in accordance with Examiner's suggestion, and in part to obviate the rejections over the prior art.

More specifically, Claims 1 and 17 are amended to recite "barrier layers sufficiently thick to substantially inhibit carrier tunneling therethrough." The original specification discloses this feature as a way to reduce the dark current. See, e.g., line 16, page 30 to line 5, page 31. In contrast, the cited prior art, Liu and Tai, discloses thin barrier layers. Hence, the individual or combined teaching of the cited prior art fails to teach each limitation of the amended Claims 1 and 17. Therefore, Claims 1 and 17 as amended are distinctly patentable. Accordingly, other pending claims as dependent claims of the base Claims 1 and 17 are also patentable based on the above argument as well as on their own merits.


Applicant submits that all of the claims are now in condition for allowance, which action is requested. Filed herewith are substitute formal drawings and Petition for Automatic Extension with the required fee.

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Respectfully submitted,

Date: _____

2/28/01



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